

2017 Design Review Board Goals

During 2017 the DRB intends to use the prescribed two-hour meeting for project review and to commit an additional hour at each meeting as a DRB work session.

Topics will include:

- creating a new outline structure for the Design Guidelines based on “The Smart Growth Manual”
- reviewing and updating the Design Guidelines within this new framework
- the unaddressed issues of 2016 listed above.

The intent of the first two is to make the Design Guidelines a more user-friendly document that places proposed development within the context of the island.

The DRB will continue to encourage the Planning Department staff to inform prospective applicants that an additional “Concept” conversation with the DRB is a great starting point before the actual Pre-Application process starts. (This does not require any fees nor starts the procedural clock running.)

The DRB can be most effective when Applicants have submitted the appropriate material relative to their position in the process. As such DRB prepared a clear list of submittal materials and will work closely with staff to ensure applications are complete before review begins.

The DRB had significant and positive impact through review of the proposed designs for the new Waterfront Park at the request of the City Council, which resulted in creating a more supportive environment and means for public comment through those meetings.

The DRB believes that it can provide good design advice to the City Council for the upcoming site analysis and selection process for the police/court facility, for example, while creating an opportunity for informative public meetings. To that end the DRB encourages the Council to expand the DRB purview to include public buildings, civic spaces, and facilities.

As island citizens, the DRB find the most common question asked of us is “how did we let that happen?” The issue generating the question is typically the clear cutting as part of new subdivisions reviewed for engineering but not for good creative site design in the neighborhood context. This is another area where the council can extend the purview of the DRB particularly with the introduction of Low Impact Design (LID) in January of 2017.

In conclusion, the Design Review Board is enthusiastic and committed to continuing to serve our community by working to ensure and safeguard the special character of our island home as the island and city grow, evolve, and change.